



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2005

## **THIRTY PEOPLE CHARGED IN TWO DRUG INDICTMENTS**

### **Alleged Drug Smugglers Imported 22,000 Pounds Of Marijuana and 300,000 Ecstasy Pills**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and James M. Kasson, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, today announced the filing of two indictments as part of an ongoing investigation of international Asian drug organizations. The charges involve the smuggling of large quantities of MDMA, commonly known as “ecstasy,” and marijuana from Canada to the United States and the distribution of these drugs in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

The first indictment, a superseding indictment, charges 26 individuals with distributing millions of dollars of ecstasy and marijuana that had been smuggled into the United States by an organization headed by Benjamin Ton. The superseding indictment alleges that between December 2002 and November 7, 2004, the Ton organization smuggled over 10,000 kilograms of marijuana (22,000 pounds) and over 300,000 ecstasy pills into the United States and sold them in bulk at wholesale prices to other drug distributors. The superseding indictment further alleges that more than \$25 million in proceeds from the sales of ecstasy and marijuana in the United States were smuggled in cash form to Canada to pay the Ton organization’s Canadian drug suppliers.

“The sole purpose of this enterprise was to smuggle as much ecstasy and marijuana as possible from Canada into the U.S. for eventual sale in our area and elsewhere,” said Meehan. “In addition, the MDMA pills often contained other controlled substances including methamphetamine, opening yet another avenue by which meth can travel to our communities.”

The second indictment contains two counts. In the first, four men are charged with possession with intent to distribute approximately 8700 pills that contained both methamphetamine and MDMA. The second count charges one of the four with possession of an additional 4,400 pills with the intent to distribute. The superseding indictment charges that these 4,400 pills also contained both methamphetamine and MDMA.

The defendants faces a total maximum term of life imprisonment.

## INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Benjamin Ton	Bluestone Circle Sicklerville, NJ	10/20/73
Sergio Caldera	Ridge Avenue Phila. PA	7/2/76
Xuyen BaoVo	E. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street - Eddystone, PA	12/31/78
Phuc Vinh Vo	Plover St. - Phila. PA	6/29/76
Diana Rivera	Dungan Rd., Phila. PA	1/8/77
Lena Loan Le	Bluestone Circle Sicklerville, NJ	12/31/76
Thuong Minh Le	Buras, Louisiana	12/31/77
Suong Thach	W. Somerville Avenue Phila. PA	7/10/82
Tha Thach	S. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street - Camden, NJ	1/5/79
Thuy A. Le	S. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street - Camden, NJ	3/8/81
Toan Kim	N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street - Phila. PA	7/11/72
Danh Mac	Thompson St. - Phila. PA	5/2/79
Cuong Pham	Cramer St. - Camden, NJ	10/1/76
Nhan Vo	E. Eagle Road Havertown, PA	4/12/83
Michael Nguyen	Herkness St. - Phila. PA	3/11/76
Nick Lay	W. Ridley Avenue Norwood, PA	1/12/82
Pheng Seng	Beulah Street - Phila. PA	4/4/81
Tri C. Doan	New Bedford, MA	11/17/68
Sang Minh Tieu	Allen Grove St. - Phila. PA	2/27/85

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Robert Hampton, Jr.	W. Master St. - Phila. PA	12/1/77
Nhut Quang Le	New Cumberland, PA	9/30/73
Kevin Le	New Cumberland, PA	10/28/75
Hieu Bui	Pennsauken, NJ	4/17/79
Sombath Bunkeut	School Street North Wales, PA	4/27/71
Hieu Chau	Pennsauken, NJ	8/31/81
Chan Nguyen	W. Tabor Road - Phila. PA	10/1/74
Timothy Nguyen	Royal Avenue Merchantville, NJ	1/7/71
Phat Truong Ngo	E. Loudon St. - Phila. PA	4/13/66

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service assisted the investigation. More than 80,000 MDMA pills, 600 lbs of marijuana, and approximately \$2 million dollars of defendants assets have been seized to date during the course of this investigation. The cases have been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David Fritchey.

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